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MUSK PULLS PLUG ON $44-BN DEAL TO BUY OUT TWITTER

US billionaire Elon Musk blamed Twitter for failing to give him accurate information on fake accounts. Twitter immediately fired back saying it is committed to closing the transaction "on the price and terms agreed upon" and vowed to sue Musk. The dispute is likely to end up in a Delaware courtroom where both Twitter and Musk will try to prove that the other party has violated the terms of the $44 billion purchase deal agreed in May.

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WITH THIS ISSUE
Male vs Female Brains
Two Minds
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

SRI LANKA PLUNGES INTO CHAOS

Gotabaya flees, PM Ranil offers to step down; all-party meet names speaker as acting president

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI
@Colombo

SRI Lanka on Saturday plunged into an unprecedented crisis as President Gotabaya Rajapaksa reportedly fled the country before a sea of protesters stormed into his official residence demanding his resignation. Hours later, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe — who also came under immense pressure to step down — tweeted that he is ready to quit.

In the emergency all-party meeting that followed, Lanka's political party leaders asked both Gotabaya and Ranil to step down immediately to pave the way for an interim administration until elections are held. It was also decided to appoint the Speaker of Parliament to act as President for 30 days and for the remaining period, to appoint a parliamentarian who commands the trust of the majority of legislators.

"Protesters have broken into the private residence of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and have set it on fire," said the Lankan Prime Minister's Office in a statement.

Protesters demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa storm the President's office in Colombo on Saturday | AFP

Earlier in the day, hundreds of thousands of angry protesters stormed into the president's official residence in central Colombo's high-security Fort area and into Temple Trees, the prime minister's official residence, in a show of power. Gotabaya, who was facing calls for resignation since March, was using the President's House as his residence and office since protesters came to occupy the entrance to his office early April.

Protesters who climbed the walls of the President's House are now occupying it. As the government had taken measures not to distribute fuel on Friday to avoid greater mobilisation of protestors, people resorted to alternate modes of transport including trucks and bicycles to reach the protest venue. Attempts to disperse the crowds using force proved futile and 45 persons including seven security personnel were injured in the process.

According to reports, Gotabaya moved out of the house on Friday itself. While some claim he escaped to a foreign country, there is no confirmation about his current whereabouts.

Gotabaya has not yet officially announced his resignation, but Sri Lankan news portal Ada Derana reports that he has informed Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena that he would step down from the post on July 13. **PTI**

Civil aviation ministry to babus: Work in pvt firms

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

EVER heard of government employees knocking on the doors of private firms to gain industry experience?

The Union civil aviation ministry is doing exactly that. In a bid to make its officers more proactive, progressive and tech-savvy, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has come up with a first-of-its kind proposal. They are being sent to private companies companies like Air Asia, Blue Dart, SpiceJet, Vistara and others for a week's training.

The Capacity Building Commission — constituted on April 1,2021 as the custodian of the civil services capacity building ecosystem — has "recommended officers of Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), should alongside regular classroom training, get an immersive experience of the aviation industry, covering airlines, airports, ATC, cargo, ground handling, MRO, drones etc."

The officers from Joint Secretary-level to Assistant Section-officer will spend one week every six months in a private company to understand the industry's new technologies and the challenges. **CONTINUED ON : P10**

4.4 magnitude quake hits Vijayapura, Bagalkot dists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bagalkot/Vijayapura/Belagavi

PEOPLE in parts of Bagalkot and Vijayapura woke up with a start as an earthquake of 4.4 magnitude, which was accompanied by a loud bang, hit the region early on Saturday morning.

The epicentre of the quake was located at the Kannur Gram Panchayat of Vijayapura taluk at a depth of 10 km, according to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

Tremors of low-intensity were felt in Basavana Bagewadi, Indi, Vijayapura city, Jamkhandi of Bagalkot district and up to Belagavi. **CONTINUED ON : P7**

EXPRESS READ

Maha gains as K'taka lacks raisin storage facilities

Bengaluru: Karnataka farmers are doing all the hard work, but it is Maharashtra that is boosting its brand and taking all the credit. This is because Karnataka lacks facilities to store raisins that are best in the country. Farmers from the grape belt of Vijayapura are forced to take their produce across the border that causes serious revenue and branding loss for Karnataka. Karnataka is the second-largest grape-growing state in the country | P4

Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, gives the Venus Rosewater Dish to Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina after she defeated Ons Jabeur on Saturday. This is her maiden appearance in a major final | AFP | P13

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